

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process implemented across a network for providing a link to a preferred network server corresponding to a preferred mirror instance within a plurality of network servers corresponding to a plurality of mirror instances of a content store, comprising the steps of:

providing a server application at a first web server, and a client application at a client terminal, the first web server comprising a server other than a server corresponding to the content store and the network servers corresponding to the mirror instances, wherein the client terminal is connected to the first web server by a first connection, wherein the client terminal is connected to the network through the first web server, and wherein the server application and the client application ~~are integrated~~ communicate to provide localization decisions ~~invisibly to a user~~ without user interaction, and to provide links to localized content from the server application to the client application;

determining localization information for each mirrored instance of the content store, wherein the localization information comprises the number of hops and latency from each mirrored instance of the content store to any of the first web server and the client terminal;

storing the determined localization information in a localization database;

~~sending~~ receiving a request ~~[[to]]~~ at the first web server over the first connection from a user at the client terminal, the request ~~comprising a link to~~ corresponding to mirrored content;

querying the localization database and applying a set of rules to the stored localization information through the server application at the first web server to determine a preferred mirror instance for the client terminal, the rules comprising a function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the mirror instances and the client terminal;

dynamically generating a web page that includes a selectable localized link to the determined preferred mirror instance through the server application at the first web server;
and

transmitting the dynamically generated web page from the first web server to the client terminal.

2. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:
automatically directing the user to the local mirror instance when the user selects the selectable localized link within the dynamically generated web page.

3. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the mirror instances and the client terminal comprises a determination of a mirror instance having the lowest number of hops.

4. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the mirror instances and the client terminal comprises a determination of one or more mirror instances having the lowest number of hops, and in the case of a tie, the preferred mirror instance additionally comprises the lowest latency.

5. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the localization information further comprises a transmission cost for each mirrored instance of the content store to each network from which users connect.

6. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the localization information further comprises mirror server load information.

7. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the localization information further comprises mirror server operation information.

8. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the localization information further comprises cost information.

9. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the localization information further comprises network segment information.

10. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the first web server is associated with a service provider.

11. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the localization information is stored at the first web server.

12. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the request comprises corresponds to a web page.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the preferred mirror is further determined from the request IP address of the client terminal.

15. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the preferred mirror is further determined from the request IP network of the user.

16. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 1, wherein the selectable localized link comprises an HTTP link.

17. (Currently Amended) A process implemented across a network for providing a link to a preferred network server corresponding to a preferred mirror instance within a plurality of network servers corresponding to a plurality of mirror instances of a content store, comprising the steps of:

providing a server application at a first web server, and a client application at a client terminal having a unique address, the first web server comprising a server other than a server corresponding to the content store and the network servers corresponding to the mirror instances, wherein the client terminal is connected to the first web server by a first connection, wherein the client terminal is connected to the network through the first web server, and wherein the server application and the client application ~~are integrated~~ communicate to provide localization decisions ~~invisibly to a client user~~ without client user interaction, and to provide links to localized content from the server application to the client application;

determining localization information for each mirrored instance of the content store, wherein the localization information comprises the number of hops and latency from each mirrored instance of the content store to any of the first web server and the client terminal;

storing the determined localization information in a localization database;

~~sending~~ receiving a request ~~[[to]]~~ at the first web server over the first connection from the client terminal, the request ~~comprising~~ corresponding to a link to the content store;

querying the localization database and applying a set of rules to the stored localization information through the server application at the first web server to determine a preferred mirror instance for the client terminal, the rules comprising a function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the mirror instances and the unique address;

dynamically generating a web page that includes a selectable localized link to the determined preferred mirror instance through the server application at the first web server; and transmitting the dynamically generated web page from the first web server to the client terminal.

18. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 17, further comprising the step of: automatically directing the client user at the client terminal to the preferred mirror when the client user selects the selectable localized link within the dynamically generated web page.

19. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the mirror instances and the client terminal comprises a determination of a mirror instance having the lowest number of hops.

20. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the mirror instances and the client terminal comprises a determination of one or more mirror instances having the lowest number of hops, and in the case of a tie, the preferred mirror instance additionally comprises the lowest latency.

21. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the localization information further comprises a transmission cost for each mirrored instance of the content store to each network from which users connect.

22. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the localization information further comprises mirror server load information.

23. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the localization information further comprises mirror server operation information.

24. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the localization information further comprises cost information.

25. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the localization information further comprises network segment information.

26. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the first web server is associated with a service provider.

27. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the localization information is stored at the first web server.

28. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the request ~~comprises~~ corresponds to a web page.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Amended) The process of Claim 17, wherein the preferred mirror instance is further determined from a request IP network of the user.

31. (Currently Amended) A proximity resource allocation system implemented across a network for providing a link to a preferred network server within a plurality of network servers corresponding to a plurality of mirror instances of a content store from which a user terminal having a unique address is connectable to the preferred network server, comprising:

a server application at a first web server that ~~is integrated~~ communicates with a client application at the user terminal, the first web server comprising a server other than a server corresponding to the content store and the network servers corresponding to the mirror instances, wherein the user terminal is connected to the first web server by a first connection, wherein the user terminal is connected to the network through the first web server, the server application to provide localization decisions ~~invisibly to a user~~ without user interaction, and to provide links to localized content from the server application to the client application; and

a localization database comprising storage of localization information for each mirror of the content store, wherein the localization information comprises the number of hops and latency from each of the plurality mirrors to any of the first web server and the user terminal;

the server application for receiving a request sent to the first web server over the first connection from the user terminal, the request ~~comprising~~ corresponding to a link to the content store, for querying the localization database and applying a set of rules to the stored localization information through the server application at the first web server to determine a preferred mirror for the user terminal, ~~wherein the determination is invisible to the user~~ without user interaction, the rules comprising a function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the mirrors and the unique address, for dynamically generating a web page that includes a selectable localized link to the determined preferred mirror through the server application at the first web server, and for transmitting the dynamically generated web page from the first web server to the user terminal.

32. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 31, further comprising:

means to direct the user terminal to the preferred mirror upon a selection by the user of the selectable localized link within the dynamically generated web page.

33. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the mirror instances and the client terminal comprises a determination of a mirror instance having the lowest number of hops.

34. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the function of the stored hop information and the stored latency information between each of the mirror instances and the client terminal comprises a determination of one or more mirror instances having the lowest number of hops, and in the case of a tie, the preferred mirror instance additionally comprises the lowest latency.

35. (Original) The system of Claim 31, wherein the unique address comprises a terminal IP address.

36. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the localization information further comprises mirror server load information.

37. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the localization information further comprises mirror server operation status information.

38. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the localization information further comprises cost information.

39. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the localization information further comprises network segment information.

40. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the localization information comprises a map of all IP address space within a global routing table.

41. (Previously Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the localization information further comprises triangulation tests and performance tests of the networks.

42. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 31, wherein the request corresponds to a web page.

43. (Canceled)